



QTC

The Radio Amateur Society
of Australia

October 2025

Is Amateur Radio Dying?
We don't think so



ACMA Remakes the Amateur LCD

Empty Vessels and Noisy Gongs - 5MHz

Just Look me up on QRZ

JOTA-JOTI Where to find information

Club Support, and more





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VK2RAS

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The Radio Amateur Society of Australia is an Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) recognised body. We are focussed solely on improving our hobby through effective, evidence based representation to the regulator and providing practical support for newcomers to Amateur Radio.

Reverse Beacon Network - RASA operates an RBN receiver located in West Gippsland, about 100km East of Melbourne (QF21wv). The identifier is VK3RASA. Visit <http://www.reversebeacon.net> for more info.

You might also decode our WSPR transmitter, VK2RAS located in Korumburra (QF21), 23dBm into a multiband vertical.

Learn more about us at <http://www.vkradioamateurs.org>

We also:

* Develop and submit pragmatic proposals for VK access to 60m and 1KW to the VK regulator



The Radio Amateur Society of Australia inc.



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- 9 **QTC** is Copyright © 2025
- 10 **Cover picture credit:**
- 11 The new LCD with nothing new, is portayed by the beige background.
- 13 **Contributing Items For QTCMagazine**
- 16 QTC Magazine welcomes contributions for future editions. When planning to submit an article, please read our submission guidelines first.
- 19 Following the guidelines will save you and the editing team a lot of time and effort. The guidelines are [HERE](#)



It's less than 3 months away. Start dropping hints NOW. And AGAIN.

From the President



Is Amateur Radio Dead?

I was thinking the other day – Yes, I know that can be dangerous, what really matters to the average Radio Amateur? Assuming, of course, that there is such a thing as an average Amateur.

We are, after all, a really diverse bunch of people, embracing what's probably an even more diverse set of interests in this hobby called Amateur Radio.

I started my AR journey when I was 12 years old and have been in, out and around the hobby ever since. During that time I've had a wealth of experiences, met some wonderful people, made lots of friendships and learned lots, and I always have my eye on new things I'd like to have a go at.

During my time, I've listened to people claim that Amateur Radio is on its

deathbed. That statement baffles me somewhat because in my short span of more than a century of Amateur Radio's life, I haven't observed it dying out.

What I have noticed is a heck of a lot of new stuff coming into the hobby, like digital technology, including digital modes for the radio. It's wild to think that some of this stuff wasn't even imagined, or at least wasn't possible, until not too long ago.

I don't think Amateur Radio is dying. It's actually growing in terms of embracing new and emerging technology.

What people, especially those of my generation, the Baby Boomers and the

generation before, the Silent Generation, are seeing is the people they have known for years are passing on, and their turn will inevitably come sooner or later.

Exploring whether the number of Radio Amateurs is on the rise or decline could be a fascinating area of study for someone.



In the past I have had robust discussions and I might do so again by stating that Amateur Radio isn't solely focused on technical aspects.

Sure, having a certain level of technical expertise is necessary to establish and maintain our hobby, but one could argue that with enough money, you could contract someone to procure and set up

your entire station for you while you enjoy a luxurious round the world cruise.

We can build our own equipment, but we are now spoilt for choices with the AR equipment on offer at very affordable pricing. Not like the early days when it was the only way you could afford to be in the hobby was to build your own. Furthermore, with modern radio equipment, the vast majority of us wouldn't know where to begin to repair it. Personally, as a retired RF communications specialist, I'd be struggling to repair today's surface mount construction... I can barely see the components!

There's always been a huge social aspect in Amateur Radio, and that should continue. What's changed with our equipment being mostly of the consumer "black box" variety, is that we spend more time playing with the toys than building, tweaking or repairing them.

Having said all of that, we ought not be complacent. Amateur radio used to be the landing ground for anyone curious about electronics. Some, like I, established careers based on our early interests in AR. Now other hobbies and pastimes have collected some of those people.

If we are so concerned about the future of the hobby, what can we do about it? Try setting up some portable gear in a

local park. The first thing that happens is that you get strange looks, and almost everyone who asks what you're doing has no idea about Amateur Radio.

We're not well known in the community. Almost a secret society. So for starters, think about getting "out there", and be

prepared to answer the questions. Give information to onlookers who show an interest.

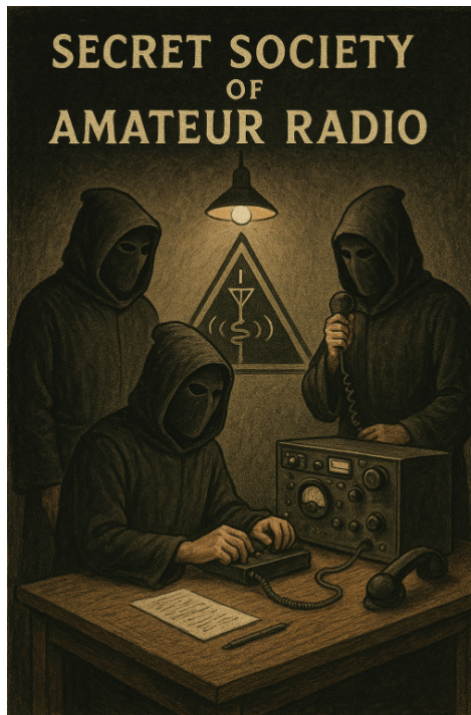
Wherever you may be, engage with onlookers about their reason to be there and how AR can integrate with that activity. Show them that there's more to Amateur Radio than our stock response

"you can speak to people in other countries", which on its own means little these days.

To wrap this up, our hobby isn't dying, in fact in technological terms it's expanding rapidly. It's up to all of us to not only be concerned that the hobby may be in decline, but to actively do something about it.

Try remembering what you liked most about Amateur Radio when you started, and think about what may appeal to a younger generation and what appeals to you now.

73 Paul.



QTC

From the Editor



A reader expressed some caution about QTC containing technical items, suggesting that QTC refrain entirely from including technical articles, in order to not look like another Australian Amateur Radio magazine. Well we won't be doing that, however let me explain what our position is on technical items.

RASA made a decision several months ago to not publish "heavy" technical articles. You know the type of articles I'm talking about. Several installments of fifteen pages describing how to build a device you can purchase online for a hundred and fifty dollars. Or articles pitched at readers with an engineering qualification.

Such items fill pages, however the audience is limited.

RASA's approach to technical items is that they are pitched at those who want to learn a bit more about the hobby and learn how to get going. Practical and/or problem solving stuff. Or the article could be a lightweight description of more complex issues, with links to "read more" for those interested in further reading on the subject.

Some editions may have more of such items than others. That's because we tend to publish received articles in the next edition of QTC. The electronic, online nature of QTC magazine means

that it is not restricted to X number of pages, nor is it limited to multiples of four pages as are "dead tree" magazines. Nor are we restricted to other people's deadlines. We can respond to whatever's happening right up to the time of publishing.

This edition of QTC contains our final word on the 5MHz debacle (note the absence of huge block headlines in QTC). The WIA is clearly embarrassed not only by its complicity in the denial of

The WIA is clearly embarrassed not only by its complicity in the denial of the 60 metre band to Australians, but by their neglecting to inform the Australian Amateur Community of that outcome.

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There's an interesting story entitled "Just Look Me Up on QRZ".

It is about the origins of callbooks, and the history of QRZ.COM. Some think the two are mutually exclusive, but they are not.

In the President's column, Paul responds to the often heard declaration that "Amateur Radio is Dying". Tales of the hobby's demise are indeed premature.

We hope you enjoy the October edition of QTC magazine. Feel welcome to write to the Editor if you have an opinion or a question.

We also accept articles for publication. See notes on this on page two.

Calling A Report 'Bunkum' Does Not Change The Facts

Back in 1977 Tom Baker as Doctor Who said: "You know, the very powerful and the very stupid have one thing in common. They don't alter their views to fit the facts. They alter the facts to fit their views."

Recently Mr Bruce Kendall made a contribution to the AR magazine about the deal that was made between Defence and the ACMA back in 2015 regarding 60 metres for Australian Amateurs. Mr Kendall appears to have followed the path of disputing the report RASA had presented on this topic, preferring an ad hominem approach of attacking the messenger because he does not like the message. The article was also unprofessional and disrespectful by not referring to RASA as the national representative body that it is.

The reported facts of the matter remain unchanged as they were provided by ACMA representatives and further supported by a ministerial letter. Indeed the recent content of the correspondence that Mr Kendall received directly from the Minister's office only served to reinforce what we had originally reported.

It is regrettable that the effort that Mr Kendall has put into an attempt to deflect the facts of this matter could instead have been focused upon the promotion of Amateur Radio and to make a real contribution to securing the future of our hobby. RASA remains committed to this objective.



QRm.guru

Resolving interference for Amateur Radio

ACMA Remakes Amateur License Conditions Determination

This was the headline of an ACMA update distributed on September 16. Many readers may ask ‘What does that actually mean? Let’s dive in.

Amateur operations had been working to an ACMA document launched in 2015. This was due to expire this year and needed to be replaced. Back in April the ACMA prepared a draft of a new document and invited submissions from the Amateur sector before changes were locked in. There were some items and wording that were tidied up.

At RASA we worked through this to take advantage of this opportunity. We agreed with most of the draft and made some recommendations for change. Details of the RASA response appeared in the [May QTC](#).

In total there were 8 submissions, including the RASA one. There were some solid suggestions within these submissions. However, the outcome was disappointing. Apart from the deletion of an obsolete beacon reference, the ACMA has discarded ALL submissions by Amateur groups and individuals and have simply locked in their draft document as a final document.

They made the statements:

Several submissions were out of scope of the consultation. These included suggestions for major reforms and changes that departed from the regulatory approach established by the Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023 (Amateur Class Licence).

And

Otherwise, after considering all feedback, we made the instrument largely as the draft we consulted on.

The reference ‘*several submissions were out of the scope of the consultation*’ was an oblique reference to a refusal by the Department to contemplate several submissions that recommend that Australian Amateurs should match 1kw PEP power levels already in use around the world. This is in addition to many similar and extensive proposals submitted to the ACMA over the past five years. The clear message here is that the ACMA is dealing with all such proposals by ignoring them entirely.

Other recommended changes were practical additions, definitely within the scope of the submission, but again, none were implemented.

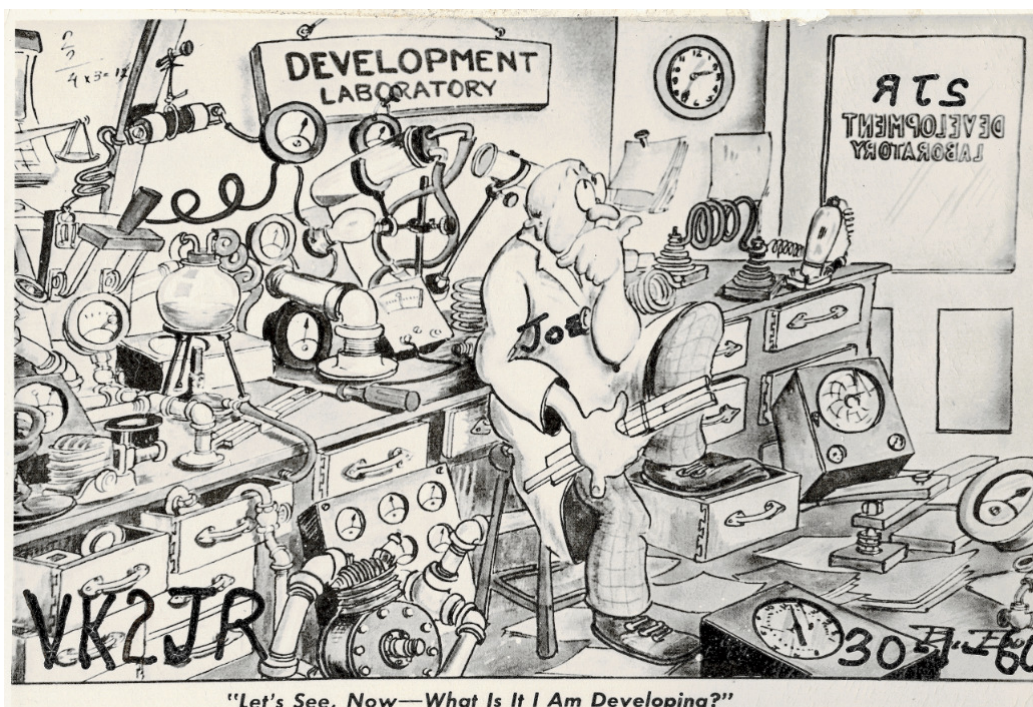
This does look like a very lazy response to what was supposed to be a real consultation. They have literally announced that all feedback from the Amateur sector was ignored and they simply greenlit their own draft document to become the final document.

The process of governmental consultation with any public sector is supposed to be a real opportunity to hear expert opinions by those within the fields of interest. The message that we, within the Amateur radio sector take away from this exercise is that this 2025 consultation was a sham, with the a primary goal being to tick a box for ministers to show that a consultation had occurred. The facts speak for themselves.

The ACMA can and should do better than this.

Remembering Joe VK2JR 1936-1964

Joe spent most of his life in Amateur Radio. He was interested in radio as a schoolboy, and both his career and hobby grew from there.



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RASA Club Support

RASA (The Radio Amateur Society of Australia) supports Amateur Radio clubs in Australia in the following ways:

Information sources to help with educating existing and prospective Amateurs

- Foundation Level Study Guide
- Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook
- VK Regs - up to date interpretation of Australian Amateur Radio regulations
- "Welcome to Amateur Radio" brochure
- "This is Amateur Radio" Website, under development

QTC Magazine

- Latest news of what's happening in Australian Amateur Radio
- Helpful articles to build your Amateur Radio knowledge
- Club activity adverts
- Fully electronic, in online, on-screen page flip mode, or a downloadable PDF. Both versions have live links. No more typing out complicated URLs.
- Live Table of Contents. Click on the item listing, go straight to it.
- It's FREE. You don't need to be a member of anything to receive QTC.

QRM GURU

- RASA supported the development and ongoing provision of QRM.GURU
- Experience based help to track down and resolve QRM issues.
- Online, web-based help

RASA is Visible

We endeavour to have a presence at as many Hamfests and A.R. activities as we can. Our first motto was "Being Heard is Important". So is being seen.

We will talk to you on your terms

- RASA is willing to address clubs, either in person or via ZOOM to talk about what we do, and any of our products

We Arent Cheap. In fact We're Free.

All of the products and services available fom RASA are free. To anyone.

Membership is voluntary. If you wish to become a member we only ask \$10 a year. Visit our website, vkradioamateurs.org

JOTA JOTI 2025

A World Shaped by Youth



Save the date: 17th - 19th October 2025

Jamboree-On-The-Air–Jamboree-On-The-Internet (JOTA-JOTI) 2025, the world's largest digital and radio Scouting event, is held annually on the third weekend of October (17–19 October this year). JOTA-JOTI brings together Scouts from across the globe through amateur radio and the internet to promote friendship, cultural exchange, and global citizenship.

This year's theme, **“A World Shaped by Youth,”** celebrates the passion, creativity, and leadership of young people. It highlights how Scouts around the world are sparking ideas, building bridges, and driving positive change in their communities and beyond. JOTA-JOTI 2025 is not only an opportunity to connect globally, but also a celebration of youth-led innovation and the Scout Movement's ongoing mission to create a better world.

In line with the theme, a new JOTA-JOTI logo has been introduced to give the event a fresh and unified visual identity. The logo draws inspiration from digital communication and international friendship, reflecting the modern Scouting experience. Designed with elements from World Scouting's identity, the logo features a 'J' built from traditional shapes, while the arrow design represents both internet signals and a paper aeroplane - a universal symbol of curiosity, outreach, and exploration.



Here's where Australians will find JOTA-JOTI resources

[Scouts Australia](#)

[JOTA-JOTI Australia](#)

[Australian JOTA-JOTI Resources](#)

[Global](#)

How Amateurs can support JOTA

If approached by a Scout or Guide unit, your role is to provide resources as requested.

Be clear about what is required, when and where, who does what. Remember it's the responsibility of the Scout/Guide people to manage the participants, leaving you free to supervise and conduct the radio stuff. Wherever possible involve young people in setting up and operating.

Child Safety Measures

You may be requested to obtain a Working With Children clearance, or be given clear directions about how and when you have contact with youth members. These precautions are universal and not directed at you personally. They are there to provide a safe environment for children.

Can't Help Directly?

And finally. If you cannot directly assist with JOTA, you can always keep an ear out for them on local repeaters and the HF calling frequencies, and when you hear someone calling with no responses, answer them. Engage them in a conversation about what they are up to in Scouts or Guides - favourite activities etc. By keeping them going for a few minutes, another JOTA station may hear and wish to join in.



Dits n dahs

Dits n Dahs

By Chris VK3QB

Well, things are a bit hectic this month, and Bob (the tireless editor) has been chasing me for this article since I returned from Norfolk Island last weekend. Two weeks on a south pacific island operating VK9NT has been loads of fun, but quite tiring. All those late nights, broken sleep patterns and endless pileups catch up with even the hardiest of constitutions!

Next month I'll have a report from our recent DXpedition to Norfolk Island. In the meantime, a few things come to mind this month.

QRP – this month is the 1-Watt Game.



This is a short 3-hour event next weekend. So, wind your power knob all the way back and see what results you can get on 20 metres. Unfortunately, it's very late in the day for us, but have a go anyway. Full details are provided later in this article.

Skills Development – Muscle Memory

There are many methods we use to develop our CW skills and gain further enjoyment from the code.

Muscle memory for Morse code involves using repetitive physical actions, like straight key presses, or paddle combinations to build and reinforce neural pathways for the dot-dash sequences, making it an automatic, unconscious process.

This phenomenon was demonstrated very well on my recent trip to Norfolk Island. Over the years I have built a strong muscle memory for sending my callsign "VK3QB", as well of course as my name, QTH and a few other important brief

phrases. Well, it took a good few hours to force a new callsign into my muscle memory, that being "VK9NT".

"Research shows learning Morse code improves neuroplasticity, altering the brain's white matter and enhancing the inferior longitudinal fasciculus (ILF), a region associated with object recognition, language and cognition. While the term "muscle memory" typically refers to motor skills, a study demonstrated that learning Morse code, a skill involving acoustic patterns and short-term memory, also leads to structural changes in the brain's white matter." Source: Google AI

In other words, as we commit a letter, word, or phrase to memory it forms a pattern in our brains, thereby enabling faster, more "automatic" recognition. This is far quicker and more efficient than the old fashioned "look up table" so many of us learnt when we first started with Morse Code.

The key to building your muscle memory is repetition and reinforcement. Most simply:

Initial Learning: When you first learn Morse code, you rely on conscious effort to recall and execute each dot and dash sequence. To make your end game more efficient and easier to achieve, learn the code at least at 18-20WPM. At these speeds you are hearing the dot-dash sequence from the outset, and not trying to count dits and dahs.

Practice and Automation: With practice, your brain begins to process these patterns more efficiently. Practice daily, both sending and receiving. By using more than one mode (ie. Sending and receiving) you are creating a more effective learning environment.

Automatic reflex: Eventually, the sequence of movements for sending or recognising a character becomes semi-automatic, requiring less conscious thought. This is when it's considered "muscle memory".

The best way to develop muscle memory is regular practice. Daily is ideal... at least 10-15 minutes. If you can manage 20-30 minutes that's even better.

Give it a try... you'll start seeing progress in just a few days.

In October, the **1-watt game** will be held again on the 11th October 2025.



Tapio, OH1KB, is the generous sponsor this time. He's donating a beautiful KBX380 key (see photo).

The prize won't go to the winner, but will be raffled off among all participants.

So, I encourage everyone to participate. Even with 1 QSO in your log, you have a chance to win this fantastic prize.

THE 1 WATT GAME 2025 - PART2.

I. OBJECTIVE: A short QRPP CW game on the 20 metre band. All radio amateurs and SWL's are cordially invited.

II. DATE: Saturday 11 October 2025 from 0900 to 1200 UTC.

III. BAND: 20 meter band only. 14.060 MHz +/- 10 kHz.

IV. POWER: maximum 1 watt.

V. OPERATION: Only CW (A1A).

1. CALL: CQ 1W

2. EXCHANGE: RST / POWER / LOCATOR

ie. 559/1w/ JO21LA. Additional info like power, RTX, antenna,... is welcome.

VI. SCORING:

First calculate the distance of each QSO.

QSO points = distance divided by the power of the other station (in watts).

Power less than 1 watt is equal to 1 watt in the points calculation.

Eg. your counter station is 2000 km away and uses 5 watt. Then the point count for this qso is: $2000/5 = 400$ points.

Eg. your counter station is 3000 km away and uses 1 watt. Then the point count for this qso is: $3000/1 = 3000$ points.

Eg. your counter station is 3000 km away and uses 300 milliwatt. Then the point count for this qso is: $3000/1 = 3000$ points.

TOTAL SCORE: Sum of all QSO points.

VII. LOG SUBMISSION:

Email your score to on6kz@hotmail.com (! NEW EMAIL ADDRESS !)

Add the text: Me, (your call) , I declare that I managed a total of XXX QSOs, my total result is XXX points.

Please add your best DX (call and locator)station-info: locator, power, RTX, antenna. Pictures of your set-up are appreciated.

VIII. GAME REFEREE: Peter Kempnaers (ON6KZ/OO7Z). The Game Referee has the right to request full log in case of any doubt.

IX. LOG DEADLINE: 15 April 2025.

X: Nominees: award for the winner, the best DX, funiest location (if outdoor), original home brew, lowest power.



Clubs Advertise Courses in FLSG

The Foundation Level Study Guide (FLSG) was developed by RASA as a free resource for newcomers to Amateur Radio. The FLSG is based on the Foundation Level Syllabus, which is set by the Australian regulator, the ACMA.

The FLSG is an electronic publication, and as such is easy to keep up to date. It is available as a PDF download, or an online e-magazine. The study guide contains live links to instructive videos made by the FLSG team, and also to other valuable information.

The FLSG is available [HERE](#)

Many Amateur Radio clubs conduct study courses and assessments for Amateur Radio qualifications.

As a service to those clubs conducting courses, and to the candidates, RASA offers a listing within the FLSG of clubs conducting courses.

We will list your club on request.

Your request for listing should contain:

- Club name
- Location
- Course types, eg Foundation. Standard and Advanced
- A website where course details are posted
- Contact details. Preferably a permanent email like "secretary@clubdomain.org"

For your club to be included in the FLSG, send the above details via email to info@vkradioamateurs.org - your club details will only be included in the FLSG on request.



The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Foundation Level Study Guide
V2 October 2024

Your Gateway to the World of Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio provides virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the technical, scientific and social aspects of this truly global hobby

A Free Amateur Radio Learning Resource

This multimedia learning resource has been developed by RASA and is provided free of charge.

Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook

If you are new to the hobby of Amateur Radio, the RASA Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook provides an introduction to our hobby for new Foundation class amateurs, and perhaps a memory jogger for those not so new.

The book is published digitally. It contains many hotlinks to external websites with useful information.

It is available as a PDF file suitable for reading on a PC or tablet. It can be printed if required. The Guidebook can be downloaded [HERE](#)





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Clubs may advertise their events in QTC free of charge

Getting the power up your tower

By Ian Jackson VK3BUF

There are some things that Amateurs don't talk about much. It is a subject that should be freely discussed, but perhaps for some, it's too sensitive a topic. That's right. It's about how cables should run up your radio tower and get around that pesky rotatable section at the top. Here in this progressive forum, we can talk about it openly.

Of course it is a little subjective and others will have different ideas and openly challenge me for not using low-oxygen copper cable ties or UV stable sidecutters, but this is my experience.

Bringing cables to the tower

There is usually a gap between the radio mast and the house or shed nearby. If possible approach the tower with cable above head height. If the tower is a tiltover type, direct the cable to the pivot point before taking it vertical.

This ensures that a well-meaning gardener doesn't flay your feedline with a brushcutter in the inevitably tall grass. It



also means that there is minimal disruption to the feedline during tiltover maintenance.

Often a tower attachment point 2-3 metres above the ground will provide a more direct path, keeping feedline losses to a minimum. Do remember to let the feedline dip a little as it approaches a house, as given the opportunity, rainwater will try to follow the cables indoors and fill up your SWR meter.

Naturally, you must use the black UV stable cable ties, as the



cheap white ties will decay and fall off within one year of sunlight exposure.

Bringing cables in underground

If the situation allows it, you may want to bring your cables to the tower underground. It solves many problems and looks neat, but take care where the cables reach the surface. You don't want your cable pipework to fill with rainwater directly or where water runs down the cable and into the pipe.

90mm stormwater pipe is recommended for this because (A) it is cheap (B) it has a good diameter that will allow extra cables to be pulled through at a later date. 90mm PVC has a really good selection of fittings that are easy to obtain.

Bring cables to the surface by threading them through 45° angle joiners, but don't glue these joiners together, keep them as a push-fit which will allow long, stiff cables to pass through without having to bend them.

Use enough sections so that the pipe loops down before it can go up the tower, to stop water getting in.



Load bubble wrap plastic into the open end of the pipe to keep out mice and horrid crawling things.

Should I run coax cables up the centre of a 2-stage tower?

Once I tried this out for about 3 years. A cluster of about five cables were run into the bottom of the lower stage of a tower and hung in the space before being attached to the full length of the upper stage. It seemed like a good idea, but it wasn't.

When winding the tower up or down, there was a constant interruption of either shoving in or pulling out cable. Also the cable cluster tended to snag on every single cable tie along the way and would have to be shaken past the obstruction.

My advice is don't do it.

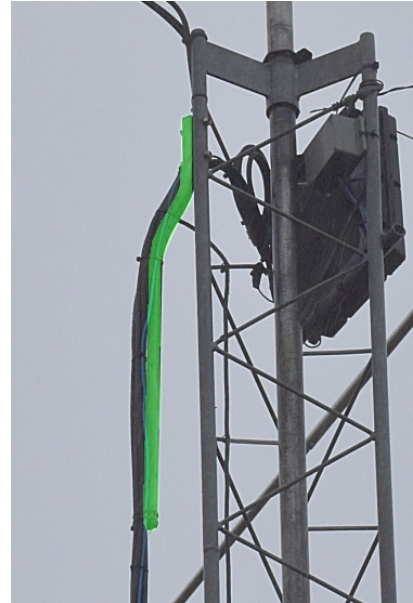
Always run your coax cables up the *outside* of the tower latticework.

Hockey stick the top of the tower

One dilemma with telescopic towers is that the top stage barely protrudes from the bottom stage when they are fully wound down. This means that the coax cables are at risk from being bent or abraded by contact with the top of the lower stage.

It also means there is very little space to secure the full weight of the cable cluster and to steer them in a loop around the rotatable section.

A useful solution to this problem is to bolt a bent section of galvanised square steel to the top of the top stage (highlighted here in green) so that there is plenty of space to anchor the cables and to ensure that they do not abrade against the bottom stage.



The essential loop above the rotator

As can be seen in the image at the top of this article, sufficient slack needs to be provided between the top of the fixed portion of the tower and the rotatable section. This needs to be a wide, lazy loop, elevated high enough not to catch on any metalwork as the antenna is rotated through 360°.

While there is much advantage in running very low-loss cable for UHF installations, such as LDF450, this is not sufficiently flexible to use in a rotator loop and flexing over time will crack and decay the cable. Cracked cable can introduce signal and transmitted power instability which is hard to locate. It is better to sacrifice some loss at the very top of the tower and terminate the more rigid cable into a joiner and go the rest of the journey with an RG213 which can endure the flexing without degradation.



Rotator cable – What to use?

When preparing coax cables to bundle up the tower you will need to include some DC multi-core cable to provide power and signal to the rotator unit. While some rotators can require a full 8 conductors, most can be accommodated using black-sheathed trailer cable available from

car part vendors like Auto Barn or Super Cheap Auto and some electrical outlets such as Radio Parts.

Bringing the cables into the shack

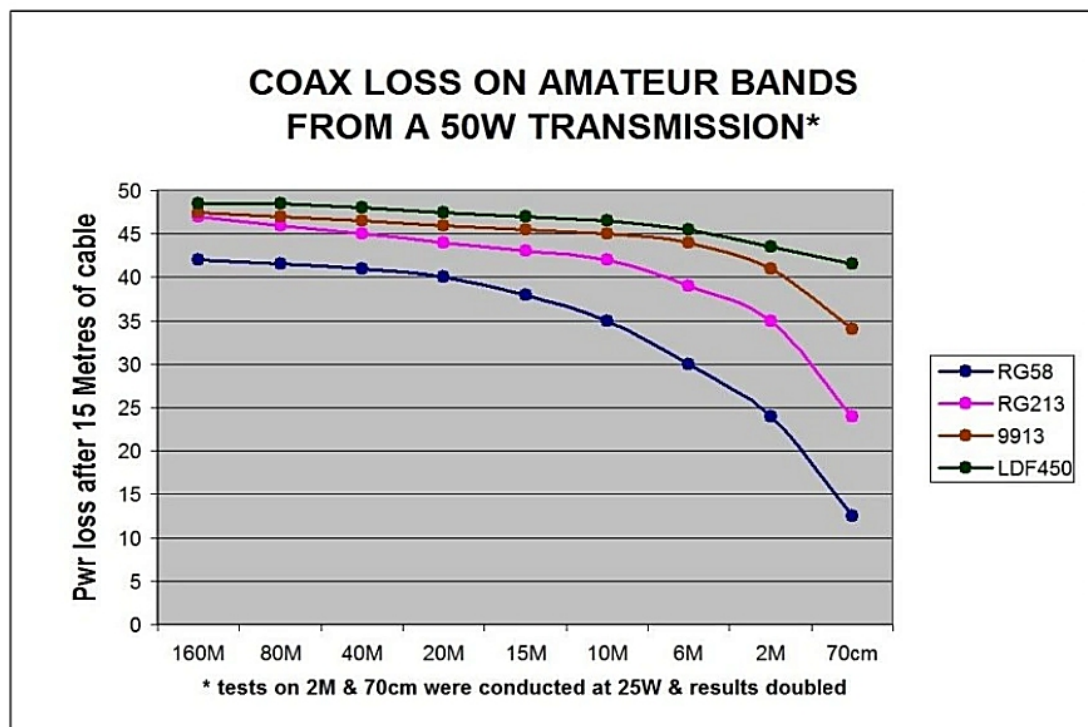
Here you have choices, some of which may depend upon whether you own the home location or whether a landlord (or partner) frowns somewhat at you punching holes in your walls. Perhaps the tidiest, but most difficult option comes from building a coaxial patch panel which clearly identifies which cable does what.

If it can't be bolted to the wall itself, then perhaps a partition that is added to a partially closed window will suffice, but therein lays some security issues and difficulty of sealing against unwanted airflow in or out of the shack.

The most expedient method may be to bring the cables loosely into the shack with sufficient length to reach the SWR meter or coax switch directly. This technique reduces complexity and connector losses, but looks a bit agricultural.

It is good to have a plan for what cables are going up your tower and give consideration to putting in a couple of extra coax runs for antennas you haven't thought of yet. If cost is an issue, don't be afraid of using the thin RG58 cable for low bands such as 40 and 80 metres. Equally important is to not chisel on the cost of running quality low-loss cable for VHF and UHF operation. Add a couple of 4 or 6 core data cables in the run in case there is a need to control a coax switch or a tower mounted antenna tuner such as the SGC unit visible in the first image of this article.

Finally check out the article on coax losses in the QTC magazine from December 2020 titled '*How good is that coax?*' <https://qtcmag.com/books/htkv/#p=26> where we road test different coax types on different amateur bands.



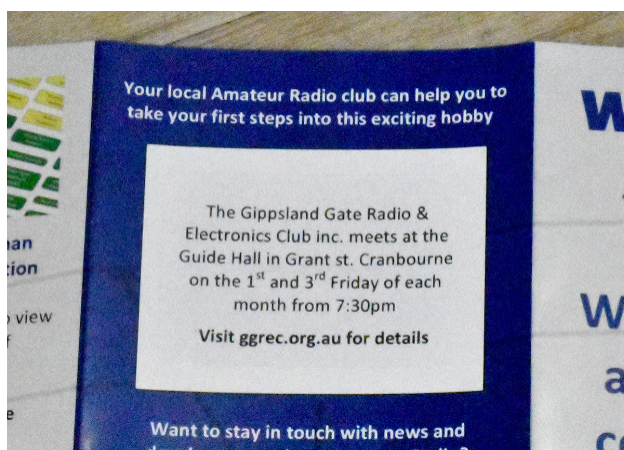
Welcome to Amateur Radio Brochure

In July of this year, RASA announced a new resource - a brochure to promote Amateur Radio. This is a general-purpose flyer for any club or group promoting Amateur Radio, and is available at no cost.

Whenever a group is promoting the hobby in a public space, they can have some of these folded brochures at hand to provide to curious onlookers.



Even though it is good for Amateurs to have a friendly discussion about what we do, it helps to give the person something to take away with them for later consideration.



The brochure has 6 panels. It describes the concept of operating radio for sport and outdoor activity. There is a synopsis of the different qualification levels and exam process. It highlights the growing technology behind the hobby and provides an introduction to the *This Is Amateur Radio* site as an educational resource and a way to learn more about what Amateurs can do.

A section has been left blank to accommodate a standard printed label which contains details of where and when your local club meets.

This brochure has been made available to all clubs as a free resource to assist in the promotion of our hobby, with samples distributed to all Australian clubs.

If your club did not receive the sample, or would like to obtain some brochures, just send an email request to info@vkradioamateurs.org.





Your Modern Day Callbook! QRZ.com: Who's Calling Me?

By Paul VK2APA

If you've ever heard someone on the bands say, "Just look me up on QRZ," you know exactly how central this site has become to our hobby. For more than 30 years, QRZ.com has been the place where hams meet, trade, log contacts, and learn from one another.

From Callbooks to Clicks

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, saw a problem: paper callbooks were heavy, outdated, and limited. His solution was simple but groundbreaking — put the amateur radio callbook online.

The story of QRZ.com begins in 1992, long before the mainstream internet we know today. Its founder, Fred AA7BQ, created a CD-ROM callsign database called "QRZ!", which compiled the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data for amateur radio operators in the United States.



The name itself is a nod to the hobby, derived from the Q code "QRZ?," which means "Who is calling me?"—a fitting title for a tool designed to answer that very question.

Just a year later, as the World Wide Web began to emerge, QRZ.com made its debut online on October 28, 1993, becoming one of the first 5,000 websites in existence. This move transformed the static CD-ROM into an international, dynamic, real-time resource that could be updated constantly.

No more flipping through dusty books with outdated information — with a few keystrokes, you could see who was calling you.



Over the decades, it has evolved from a simple lookup tool into a multifaceted platform that supports every aspect of the ham radio experience.

More Than Just Callsigns

Over the years, QRZ grew right alongside the internet. Forums became the go-to place for antenna discussions, rig reviews, and good old ham radio storytelling. The Swapmeet section quickly turned into one of the most trusted ham gear marketplaces in the USA.

And then came profiles, station photos, and biographies — suddenly, QRZ wasn't just about data, it was about people.

QRZ Today

Fast-forward three decades, and QRZ.com is the most visited amateur radio website in the world. Here's what keeps operators coming back every day:

 Callsign Database – Now loaded with bios, shack photos, and station details.

 Online Logbook – Log QSOs, confirm contacts, and track awards directly on the site.

 Community Forums – From tech troubleshooting to DX bragging rights.

 Swapmeet Classifieds – Buy, sell, and trade radios and accessories with confidence.

 News & Articles – Stay current on DXpeditions, contests, and ham radio news.

 Premium Perks – Ad-free browsing, advanced searches, and logbook extras.

A Living Legacy

What started as a clever replacement for printed callbooks has become the heart of the ham radio community online. Whether you're chasing DX, upgrading your station, or just curious about who answered your CQ, QRZ.com is there to connect us all.

“QRZ isn't just where we look up callsigns — it's where the ham community comes to life.”

Timeline of QRZ.com

1992 – Launched by Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ.

1990s – Database becomes a global ham resource.

2000s – Forums and swapmeet open.

2010s – Online logbook and awards system launched.

Today – Millions of users, millions of callsigns, still growing every day.

QRZ.com is more than just a website; it is an institution in the ham radio community. It is used on all seven continents, and on the International Space Station. It remains

a powerful testament to how a simple idea can grow into a cornerstone of a global hobby, connecting people and radios across the planet.

The Local Situation

October 1912 the Wireless Institute of NSW (Now known as ARNSW) published a list of its members callsigns, possibly being the First Call Book in Australia. This grew into a regular publication which eventually was overtaken by modern day issues, such as privacy laws and the availability of the internet with tools such as QRZ.com, or even placing a callsign into your favourite search engine.

This grew into a regular publication that was collected by many. It was based upon Department of Communications (now ACMA) licensing data that was available to the public. In 2020 the ACMA directed that their information could no longer be published in this way and the callbooks were halted.

In 2024, when Class licensing was introduced, Amateur operator details were progressively removed from the ACMA database, preventing all future casual searches for Australian operators.

Today the only ACMA resource is a Callsign search to see if a callsign has been allocated and if so, what class of licence is associated with it. No names or location data are presented with search results. <https://www.acma.gov.au/are-you-looking-amateur-call-sign>

Many Australian Amateurs now have an entry on [QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com). Enjoy setting up yours.



-73 O.M., I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW-----

Members of the Wireless Institute of N.S.W. licensed stations

X Q	General Call for Amateurs
X A B	Arnold, A. S.
X A D	Bostock, W.
X A E	Elliott, A.
X A R	Miatt, A.
X A S	Stowe, H. A.
X B H	McCormack, H.
X B J	Hooker, B. W.
X B M	Bartholomew, C. P.
X B P	Bonwill, Dr.
X B N	Mills, C. M.
X B W	Gow, G. S.
X C C	Crouch, C.S.
X C L	Willmot, T. R.
X C M	Australian Elec. Sup. Co.
X C P	Perry, Malcolm
X C Z	Bradley, Dr.
X D M	Maclurcan, C. D.
X D Y	Pike, J. H. A.
X D Z	do.
X D T	Shellshear, K. E.
X D W	Royal Sydney Yacht Sq.
X E D	Nolan, Spencer
X E G	Martin, W. J.
X E H	Cape, A. V.
X E N	Leverrier, F.
X F M	Brooks, F. J.
X F O	Ford, A. P.
X F P	Renshaw, W. H.
X F Q	Wright, N. H.
X G H	Hamilton, G. C.
X H C	Perdriau, H. C.
X H L	Leverrier, H.
X I T	Peake, J. G.

RASA - QTC FreeDV Evaluation Project Extended

By Bob Bristow VK6POP

RASA is conducting an evaluation of FreeDV, the Open Source HF Digital Voice application for Amateur Radio, with view to publishing a review in a future edition of QTC Magazine. I enthusiastically hoped to publish the review in this edition, but Robbie Burns knew how these things go, when he penned the words "*The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry*".

I was a bit slow getting the group going, caused by a recent bereavement in my family, and by my tardiness in getting an antenna up at the new house.

Threats and Opportunities!

The delay has enabled a couple of us to get up and running, and able to support others. Plus, version 2.02 of FreeDV has just been released. The aim is still to test drive and evaluate FreeDV, and to provide a report to QTC Magazine. It is important to evaluate the product "out of the tin", assuming you have no prior knowledge of the product. **There's still time for you to join in.**

Assumptions: Participants have HF on-air capability, transceiver-computer interface for rig control and audio and a second "sound card" device, eg USB headset, soundcard dongle.

Method of evaluation:

Participants, preferably with no recent experience of using FreeDV, agree to:

- Download, install and configure the app. <https://freedv.org/#download>
- Listen for nets listed on the downloads page. In Australia there are nets on Sunday, 0030 and 1030 UTC, on 7.177 or 7.192
- Participate in team nets to be organised ad hoc as required
- Make notes, take screenshots and recordings to support writings.
- Evaluate your experience in the provided sheet
- Provide a summary of the experience. Try as much as possible to perform the install and setup "out of the tin", following instructions given on the website.
- Evaluate the on-air experience, particularly audio quality
- In a team net, we can compare using FreeDV with plain SSB voice.

I anticipate that those taking part will hold off installing FreeDV until given the go-ahead in order to keep everyone sort of together, and from there we will strike a timetable to test and evaluate. This should involve at least one attendance at one of the VK FreeDV nets, and at an evaluation team net to be arranged if needed.

If you have read this far, and are still interested in taking part in the evaluation, click on through to [THIS FORM](#) to register your interest.

I look forward to working with a small group of keen, interested people. And let's have some fun while we are at it. That's why we do it, yes?

73, Bob VK6POP

History 100 Years Ago

From The Telegraph Brisbane, Qld.,
Wednesday 1 July 1925, page 12
(Images created by A.I. in 2025)

AN AMATEUR'S DILEMMA - A FACETIOUS RADIO DEALER.

Even the serious side of wireless, which lies in the purchase of a satisfactory set, has its brighter side, as an Adelaide novice, who purchased a four valve receiver from a Melbourne radio firm, recently discovered.

The purchaser of the set experienced considerable difficulty when it arrived. He eventually asked for a fresh set of valves, and when he received them noticed that they were not like the

Yours of the 21st to hand, and we notice that you are puzzled, as to why the second lot of valves are different from the first. This is quite in order, because you can never expect to get exactly what you want when you want it, and, besides, the radio art is constantly being improved, and as a consequence ideas change as to what valves should be used.

The latest edict is that 201a valves are more reliable and consume less current when used as a detector, they are not so critical in operation, and are considerably quieter.

There is, of course, another school of thought that prefers o.v. 200 tubes as a detector. Personally, I am strong for the 201a, as it is a higher number than 200, and the silvering on the tubes looks very nice indeed. All things considered I think you will find 201a's the best for hill work.



original set and wrote for instructions regarding their use.

In reply, he received from one of the principals of the radio firm the following reply:— "Dear Sir — Regarding valves.

Of course, you ought to keep another set of valves for the sea level. I think this is the clearest way of putting it.

If you can't get any music out of the set, it might be as well to pull the wiring to pieces and see if you can make a better

circuit up. This is usually done by all experts.

With kindest regards, I am, yours in the interests of science, &c. P.S.— The writer looks forward to receiving a message any day that you will be coming over this way.

After gazing long and earnestly at this weird example of the correspondent's art, the purchaser of the set, not to be outdone, wrote back as follows:—

responsible for this obvious step. As you are aware, what we should have done was to oppose the loud speaker insulator to the static, and could have then computed the capacity in microhenries, which, divided by the microfarads (see Bichromate) would have clearly indicated the cost of freight on the complete set.

Since reading your letter we have set up the Instrument and find that by removing all exterior wires, such as those leading from terminals marked



"Dear Sirs, Your letter of May 23 is hereby acknowledged with thanks. Your lucid explanation regarding the use of the respective valves under varying circumstances has quite cleared the fogs that were growing in our minds over this apparently involved, but actually quite simple matter.

That we were considerably troubled as to the correct procedure may be gathered from our endeavouring to connect the tapped anode reactance to the bevelled hub of the angstrom unit (see atom). The lettering aerial tuner being in white on a black surface was

grnd. and ant., the set looks very nice indeed on its table. We are having a cloth made to cover it."

True story? It must be, because it was in the newspaper!

The story was taken from the [Trove Website](#) of the National Library of Australia. There's a wealth of Amateur Radio history recorded there. Pre World War Two, Amateur Radio news and columns were regular features in newspapers. After the war, Amateur Radio presence in the press declined. Ed.



Contests

What's on in contesting?

OceaniaDXcontest

The **Oceania DX SSB 2025 contest** will be on air the weekend that the October QTC is published, (4-5 October), and the following weekend is the Oceania DX CW contest.

The **JARTS RTTY Contest** is on 18th and 19th October - See the rules, especially the rule changes, HERE http://jarts.jp/rules/2024_rule_en.htm



CQ World Wide DX Contest

The CQ WW is the largest Amateur Radio competition in the world. Over 35,000 participants take to the airwaves on the last weekend of October (SSB) and November (CW) with the goal of making as many contacts with as many different DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible.

CQ WW Contest Dates

SSB: October 25 - 26, 2025

CW: November 29 - 30, 2025

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday

Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

To find out when the contests are on, there's an online contest calendar maintained by Alan VK4SN <https://www.vk4sn.com/Contests/Calendar>

What's the Point of Amateur Radio Contests?

Before we go anywhere with this, because Amateur Radio is such a diverse hobby that attracts an equally if not more diverse lot of people, if you ask a group of people if they like this aspect of Amateur Radio or that aspect, you'll get likers and haters of every activity. Amateur Radio Contests are no exception.

Again because of our diversity, people enter contests for a variety of reasons. Some are competitive and expend a lot of time and effort (we don't count the cost, do we?) in building up a competitive station for the express purpose of contesting. Some just like to participate and enjoy the experience, and some come for a look to see what it's all about.

Undoubtedly there are other categories, but let's not delve too far into those, because we get the point. Any reason for taking up an aspect of the hobby such as contests is valid.

One angle of contesting that can be easily overlooked because people quite naturally want to do their best, is that contests are a fun way to “blood” newcomers to the hobby. When participating in a contest, you straight away can see the basics of on air practice that you learned in your practical segment of learning for your qualification. Such things as listening for activity on the band, asking if the frequency is in use, rather than just pressing the trigger and shouting “CQ Contest”.

You very quickly brush up on your microphone technique, including confidence to speak into the contraption. Often during a contest you will experience a “pile-up”, with several stations trying to respond to your CQ call. Hopefully you will get to watch someone else work a pile-up before it happens to you, and you can get a few clues about how to manage it.

Working a pile-up is an essential skill for when you’re working DX, a special event station or are lucky enough to take part in a DXpedition.



Gary VK6WCH working the VK6AHR station for the Remembrance Day Contest. Photo: Andy VK6HQ.

Clubs are a good place to introduce newcomers to contesting by fielding a club entry into a contest and encouraging the newcomers to have a go. Introducing the newbies to contesting isn't just about contests. It's about showing them different aspects of the hobby, and developing their skills. And just coincidentally, everyone seems to have a lot of fun along the way. Do you need a better reason?

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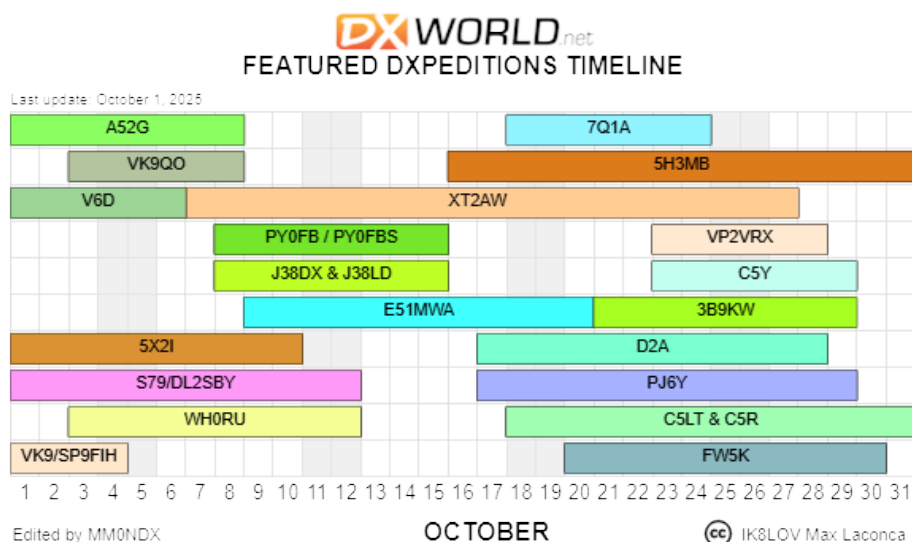
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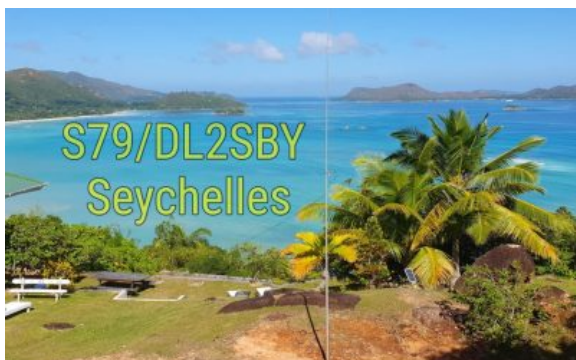
DX Happenings



Click on the image above to access the DX World website

Here are some examples of Dxpeditons. There are more on the website.

S79/DL2SBY – Seychelles



Sep 28, 2025

Celebrating 50 years in amateur radio this year, Kasimir DL2SBY informs DX-World that he will again be active from the Seychelles as S79/DL2SBY during **September 28 to October 12, 2025. QRV on HF bands with a focus on 6m (using a 5el yagi). QSL via LoTW . [MORE](#)

5X2I – Uganda

Sep 28, 2025



Previously active from Uganda in May 2023, Pista HA5AO will be returning there later this year, specifically between September 29 to October 10. He will QRV as 5X2I on 80-6m; CW, SSB & FT8 using a FT-710 + KPA-500 amplifier and a Hustler 6BTV vertical... [MORE](#)



JS6RRR – Miyako Isl, AS-079

Sep 28, 2025

Take, JS6RRR (also JI3DST/6, JJ5RBH/6 & JR8YLY/6) will be active from Miyako-jima AS-079 during September 28 to December 3, 2025. QRV on 160-6m, SSB/CW/FT8 using the various calls mentioned on different modes. All QSL info on QRZ.com. [MORE](#)



Phill, FK1TS / C21TS writes:

Will be here until November 30th then two months leave. So no C21TS in December 2025 and January 2026. After that I am undecided at this time. I'll probably be back for a few months from February 2026 with minimal gear, probably just a FT-891. Hard finish will be June 2026 and no later. [MORE](#)



The VK9NT DXpedition to Norfolk Island concluded recently, and we can look forward to a report from the team in the November edition of QTC Magazine.